LiveWell
SOUTH TEES
HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

SOUTH TEES
JSNA
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

JUNE 2024

MISSION

We will build an inclusive model of care for people suffering from multiple disadvantages across all partners.

GOAL

We want to reduce the prevalence and impact of violence in South Tees.

Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 Mission led approach

The South Tees Health & Wellbeing Boards have agreed to a "mission-led" approach, structured across the life course. Each mission is a response to a significant local challenge, one where innovation, working together and aligning resources has a big part to play in driving large-scale change. The Missions each have a set of ambitious goals that further articulate and explain the Mission.

The JSNA will provide the intelligence behind the Mission(s) – it will develop our collective understanding of the Mission(s); the issues behind and the broad contributing factors to the current outcomes experienced. We are working across the Tees Valley authorities to develop a process on that footprint that facilitates deeper engagement from the ICB.

The vision and aspirations under the life course framework already exist following previous development sessions of the LiveWell Board. The life course framework consists of three strategic aims – start well, live well and age well.

Vision	Empower the citizens of South Tees to live longer and healthier lives		
Aims	Start Well	Live Well	Age Well
Aspiration	**Children and Young People have the Best Start in Life** We want children and young people to grow up in a community that promotes safety, aspiration, resilience and healthy lifestyles	**People live healthier and longer lives** We want to improve the quality of life by providing opportunities and support so more people can choose and sustain a healthier lifestyle	**More people lead safe, independent lives** We want more people leading independent lives through integrated and sustainable support

1.2 Start well strategic aim.

There are three missions within the start well strategic aim. **The first mission relates to narrowing the outcome gap for children growing up in disadvantage, the second mission relates to improving education, training, and work prospects for young people and the third missions relates to improving young people's mental health**. The first goal within the fourth mission, and the focus on this needs assessment, is on reducing the prevalence and impact of violence in South Tees.

Aims	Mission	Goal
Live Well *People live healthier and longer lives*	We will reduce the proportion of our families who are living in poverty	We want to reduce levels of harmful debt in our communities
		We want to improve the levels of high-quality employment and increase skills in the employed population
	We will create places and systems that promote wellbeing	We want to create a housing stock that is of high quality, reflects the needs of the life course and is affordable to buy, rent and run.
		We want to create places with high quality green spaces that reflect community needs, provide space for nature and are well connected.
		We want to create a transport system that promotes active and sustainable transport and has minimal impact on air quality.
		We will support the development of social capital to increase community cohesion, resilience, and engagement.
	We will support people and communities to build better health.	We want to reduce the prevalence of the leading risk factors for ill health and premature mortality
		We want to find more diseases and ill health earlier and promote clinical prevention interventions and pathways across the system
	We will build an inclusive model of care for people suffering from multiple disadvantages across all partners	We want to reduce the prevalence and impact of violence in South Tees
		We want to improve outcomes for inclusion health groups
		We want to understand and reduce the impact of parental substance misuse and trauma on children

2. What is our mission and why do we need to achieve it?

2.1 We will build an inclusive model of care for people suffering from multiple disadvantage across all partners.

Academic research posits that substance use contributes to the overall burden of disease and social need in the UK, such as communicable diseases, mental health issues, physical health, accidental harms, and the associated service pressures. Furthermore, Substance use is a complex issue that touches young people, adults, families, communities, and society, affecting a range of health and social outcomes including the prevalence of violence.

Dependency on and misuse of drugs and/or alcohol can affect many aspects of an individual and community: relationships, meaningful activities and employment, family life, parenting, educational attainment, housing opportunities, criminal and anti-social behaviour.

Substance misuse interventions and treatment lead to improved public health outcomes, benefitting the wider determinants of health, health improvement, health protection and preventing premature mortality.

There is a joint responsibility from a range of partners to reduce the harms associated with substance misuse, which includes health and social care, housing services, employment support providers and criminal justice partners.

3. What is our goal and why do we need to achieve it?

3.1 We want to reduce the prevalence and impact of violence in South Tees.

Research has found that the prevalence of serious violence in communities significantly contributes to the strain on health services and the wider economy. Violence causes ill-health directly and indirectly, particularly in certain circumstances. For example, violent abuse in childhood can increase the risk of violence in later life, but also increases the risk of cancer, heart disease and sexually transmitted infections, directly impacting individuals' long term health outcomes. Furthermore, abuse in childhood can lead to a greater risk of substance use in adulthood, which comes with an array of negative health consequences. Finally, the presence of violence in communities can impact an individuals' autonomy and ability to make healthier lifestyle choices, for example limiting their ability to exercise, socialise, use outdoor/natural facilities, and use public transport.

Each year world-wide, millions of women, men and children suffer non-fatal forms of violence. This includes child maltreatment, youth violence, intimate partner violence, sexual violence and abuse of older people, with many people suffering multiple forms of violence. The impact from violence contributes to life-long ill health and ultimately early death (WHO, 2022). Across England and Wales, 696 people were victims of homicide in 2021. In Redcar & Cleveland in the year ending June 2023, the highest percentage of reported crimes were violence against the person (38%). This was an increase of 17% since June 2022. Furthermore, figures show a 49% increase in possession of weapons offences since June 2022.

Analysis of Hospital Episode Statistics for the 3-year period 2016/17-2018/19, shows Middlesbrough and Hartlepool in the top quartile for the highest rates of emergency hospital admissions in the country for violence, with rates standing at 73.3 and 69.7 per 100,000 population respectively, significantly higher than the national average of 44.9 per 100,000 population. Furthermore, hospital admission data for assaults with sharp object for the 3-year period 2015/16 – 2017/18, used by the Home Office to identify qualifying police force areas for Serious Violence funding standardised to rate per 100,000 population, shows Cleveland had the fifth highest rate in country and was the only area in the top 10 forces not to receive a funding allocation. However, more recently, the Home Office allocated funding to establish the Cleveland Unit for Violence Reduction, which is funded between April 2022 and March 2025.[1]Current data (up to March 2023) has shown that the Cleveland force area saw an 11.5% increase in police recorded offences of violence with injury, with a rate of 1,332 per 100,000 of the population. Furthermore, offences involving firearms rose by 7.1% between 2022 and 2023, as well as offences involving knives and sharp objects increasing by 8.7%. Overall, the Cleveland force area was ranked second nationally for knife crime by rate per 100,000 of the population and ranked twelfth for change in the 12-month period between June 2022 and June 2023. When looking at hospital admissions, the force area was ranked twelfth nationally for total admissions due to sharp objects, and for admissions per million of the population the Cleveland area is joint leader alongside the West Midlands, with a rate of 132 admissions per million.[2] Furthermore, as of June 2023, the Cleveland force area has the highest rate of homicide of all police force areas, with 26.3 incidents per

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[1] Appendix-A-Violence-in-Clevelandredact.pdf (pcc.police.uk)
[2] Digital Crime and Performance Pack - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)

million of the population.   Thus, it is clear that locally, violent crime continues to have significantly negative effects on public health services in the area. [3]

To respond to these issues, in April 2018 the government published its Serious Violence Strategy in response to increases in knife crime, gun crime and homicide across England. Action in the strategy is focused on 4 main themes:

- tackling county lines and misuse of drugs

- early intervention and prevention

- supporting communities and local partnerships

- law enforcement and the criminal justice response

The strategy has a call to action to partners from across different sectors to come together in a multi-agency public health approach to tackling and preventing serious violence at a local level. The 'public health' approach to violence involves viewing violence as a 'preventable disease' and therefore taking an 'upstream approach' which involves targeting the root causes of violence, such as psychosocial risk factors. These risk factors can be related to the individual, their personal relationships, their community and wider society and can also intersect at multiple levels of an individuals' identity, resulting in complex socioeconomic disadvantage as visualised through the diagram below.

Source: Police and Crime Commissioner in Cleveland - Preventing & Addressing Serious Violence in Cleveland[4]
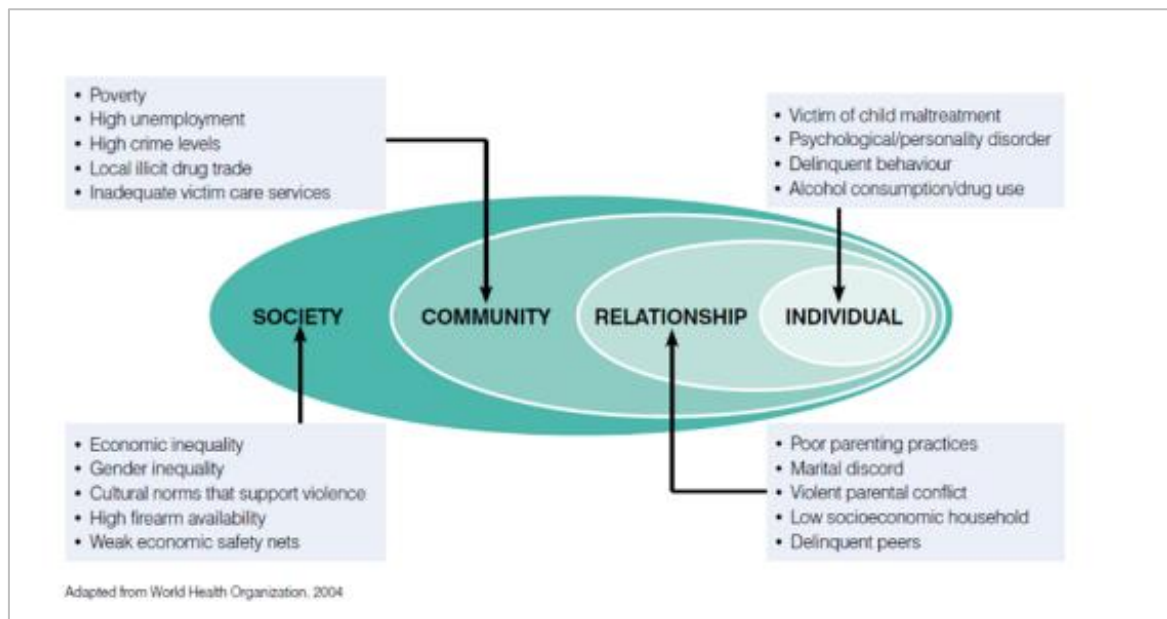
These National priorities are reflected locally throughout South Tees, with the JSNA assessment aiming to address drug and alcohol misuse, ASB, domestic abuse, organised crime and county lines, through recognising the role of poverty and deprivation, adverse childhood experiences, loss of pride in place and community, and the cultural normalisation of violence.

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[3] Digital Crime and Performance Pack - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)
[4] Appendix-A -Violence-in-Clevelandredact.pdf (pcc.police.uk)

4. Key data and drivers for change?

As seen throughout this section, serious violent crimes are increasing in terms of volume and rate per 1000 population across South Tees, with the proportions of offences over time being consistently highest in Middlesbrough.

In lieu of a national definition, Serious Violence in Cleveland is defined as offences which cause significant harm to individuals and communities, it is from this definition that the following types of Home Office Crime Classifications were classified as a serious violence crime:

1. Homicide, attempted murder and manslaughter

2. Assault with intent to cause serious harm

3. Malicious wounding - wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm

4. Arson with intent to danger life

5. Aggravated burglary

6. Death or serious injury caused by unlawful driving

7. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking

8. Kidnap

9. Knife crime and/or firearms enabled/threatened offences based on the following categories (in addition to those already listed above):

- Robbery (Business and Personal)
- Threats to kill.
- Assault with injury (including on a constable & racially or religiously aggravated).[5]

4.1 Crime Overview and Prevalence in South Tees

In the year ending June 2023, Middlesbrough had a much higher rate of total recorded crime (27,104) than Redcar and Cleveland (15,362). For Middlesbrough, this constituted a 24% increase from the year ending June 2022, whilst the increase was slightly lower for Redcar and Cleveland, at 14%. Recent data collected by Middlesbrough's Community Safety Partnership shows that 1 in every 12 violent crimes in Middlesbrough are serious violence offences.

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[5] Understanding Serious Violence in Middlesbrough (2023)

Figure 1: Total Crime and percentage change

Total recorded crime
(excluding fraud) in Middlesbrough & Redcar and Cleveland
Year ending June 2023

Percentage change in total recorded crime
(excluding fraud) in Middlesbrough & Redcar and Cleveland
Year ending June 2022 - June 2023
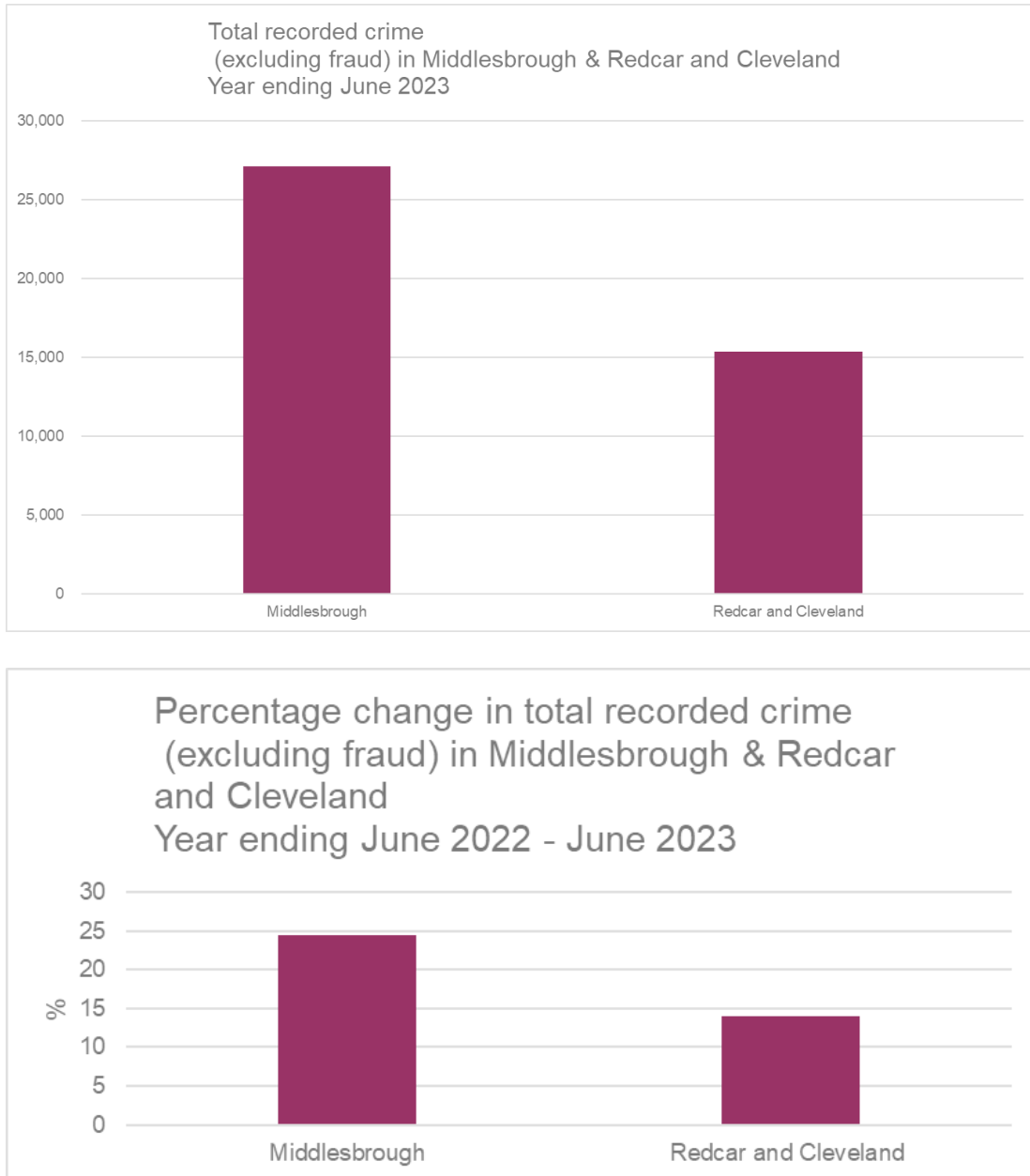
Source - Crime data by Community Safety Partnership area (ONS, 2024)

Data shows that violence against the person constituted 40% of all crimes reported in Redcar & Cleveland and 36% of all crimes reported in Middlesbrough. For Redcar and Cleveland, this signalled a 14% increase from the year prior, whilst for Middlesbrough this was slightly higher, at 20%.

Figure 2: Crime by type

Percentage of total reported crime in Redcar & Cleveland, by type
June 2023

- Violence against the person
- Theft offences
- Criminal damage and arson
- Drug offences
- Possession of weapons offences
- Public order offences
- Miscellaneous crimes against society

(Values shown: 40%, 30%, 14%, 2%, 1%, 11%, 2%)

Percentage of total recorded crime in Middlesbrough by type
June 2023

- Violence against the person
- Theft offences
- Criminal damage and arson
- Drug offences
- Possession of weapons offences
- Public order offences
- Miscellaneous crimes against society

*(Values shown: 36%, 28%, 14%, 3%, 1%, 11%, 2%)*

Source - Crime data by Community Safety Partnership area (ONS, 2024)

Percentage change in violent crimes in South Tees shows increases across all categories between June 2022 and June 2023, for both Redcar & Cleveland and Middlesbrough. Both areas saw relatively similar increases in sexual offences, with Middlesbrough seeing a 27% increase, and Redcar & Cleveland seeing slightly more, at 29%. Similarly, increases in stalking and harassment were similar, with Middlesbrough seeing an increase of 13% in these types of crime, and Redcar & Cleveland again seeing slightly more at 13%. However, when looking at violence with injury, violence without injury and violence against the person, differences are clear, with Middlesbrough seeing higher increases.

<u>N.B</u>: *Homicide and death or serious injury caused by illegal driving categories have been purposefully excluded from this data, as the relatively small number of cases skews data. Where Middlesbrough saw an increase in homicide from 1 reported crime in June 2022 to 5 in June 2023, Redcar & Cleveland saw a decrease from 5 to 1. Similarly, where Middlesbrough saw an increase from 0 to 4 reported deaths or serious injuries due to illegal driving between years ending June 2022 and June 2023, Redcar & Cleveland saw a decrease in cases, from 4 to 2.*

Figure 3: Percentage change in violent crimes (including sexual offences)

Percentage change in violent crimes (including sexual offences) in Redcar and Cleveland
Year ending June 2022 - June 2023

Percentage change in violent crimes (including sexual offences) in Middlesbrough
Year ending June 2022 - June 2023
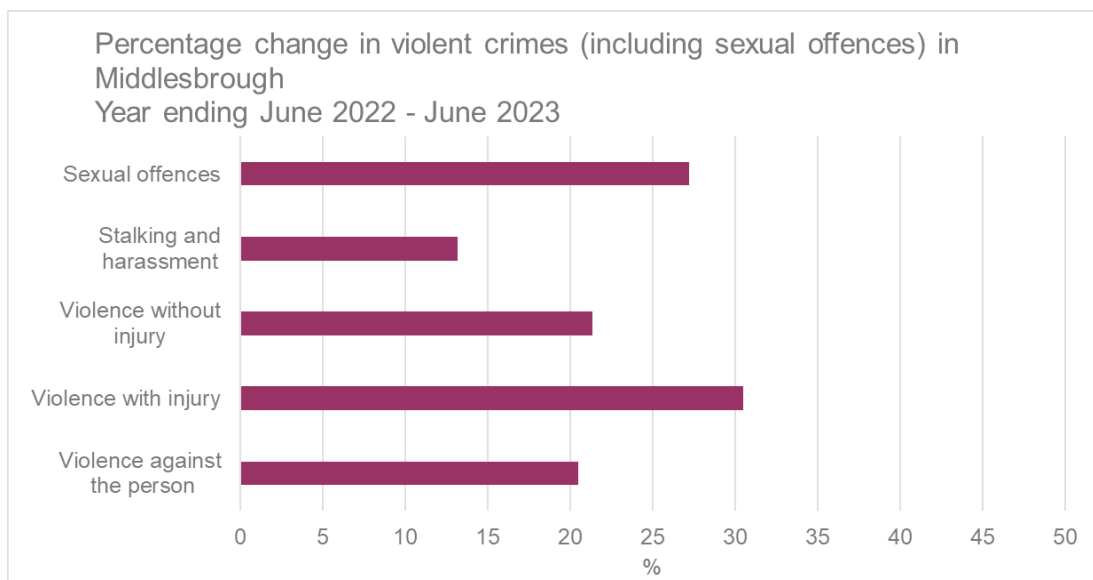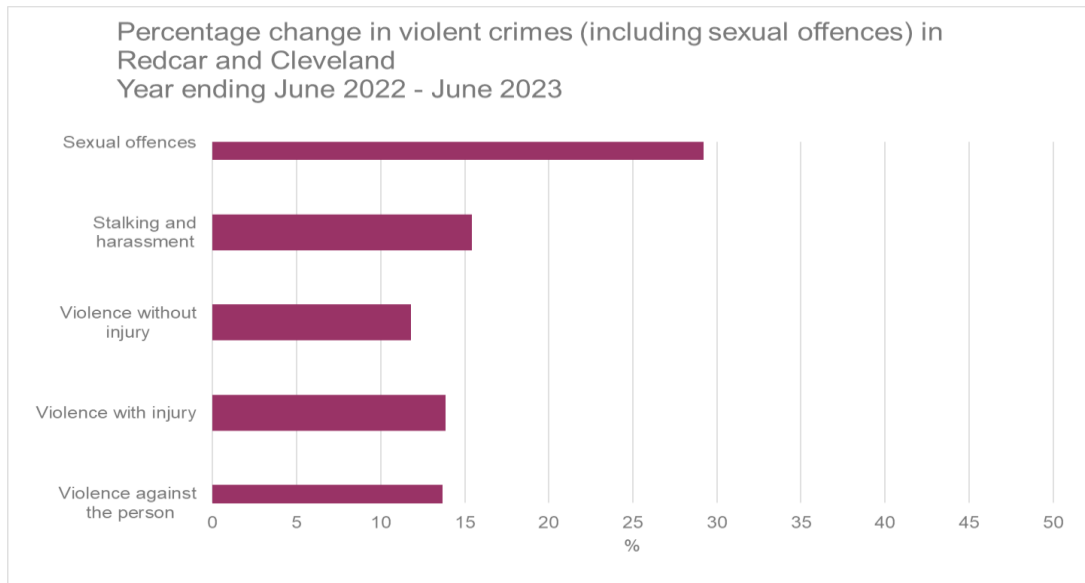
Source - Crime data by Community Safety Partnership area (ONS, 2024)

4.2 Violence Breakdown

Knife Crime

Knife crime in Cleveland is of concerning prevalence, with statistics showing that Cleveland ranks second highest nationally for the rate of offences involving knives and sharp instruments (year end June 2023).[6] Between June 2022 and June 2023, 159.5 incidents of knife crime were recorded per 100,000 of the population in Cleveland, meaning that Cleveland's rates of knife crime exceed those of significantly larger metropolitan areas such as Greater Manchester or Merseyside. As of June 2023, Cleveland's rate of violence with injury offences had risen 11.5% over the 12 months prior, with an

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[6] Digital Crime and Performance Pack - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)

increase of 8.7%% in knife crime compared to the same period a year earlier. Furthermore, prevalence is increasing at a concerning rate, with data showing that most serious violence offences in Cleveland are increasing at a higher rate than the national average. The cost of the most serious violence to the Police and Criminal Justice System in the 12 months prior to 2020 estimated to be £23.3m, rising to £116.2m when taking into consideration wider costs to society. When breaking this down by type of serious violence, assault with injury is the comprises over half of the total cost, at £80.9m. The remaining £35.3m is spent on anticipating, consequences of and in response to Murder.

Assault with intent to cause serious harm

Since 2015, Cleveland's rate of increase in this offence type has far exceeded both the national average, and local rates of less harmful forms of assault. This comparatively accelerated increase in near miss offending, combined with Cleveland's small population presents a real risk of rapid and increased rates of recorded homicide in the near future. The increased risk associated with weapon-enabled violence (22% of recorded offending) provides the same justification for prioritising this subset of offending.[7]

Robbery and Rape

When combined with violence with injury, rape and robbery comprise two thirds of serious violence. In the five years prior to October 2022, rape and robbery represent an estimated costs on Cleveland of £34Million, over 40% of the total estimated cost of serious violence. Prioritising offending in public spaces is consistent with existing partnership priorities and recognises the disproportionate impact on public perception of risk of violence such offending has.
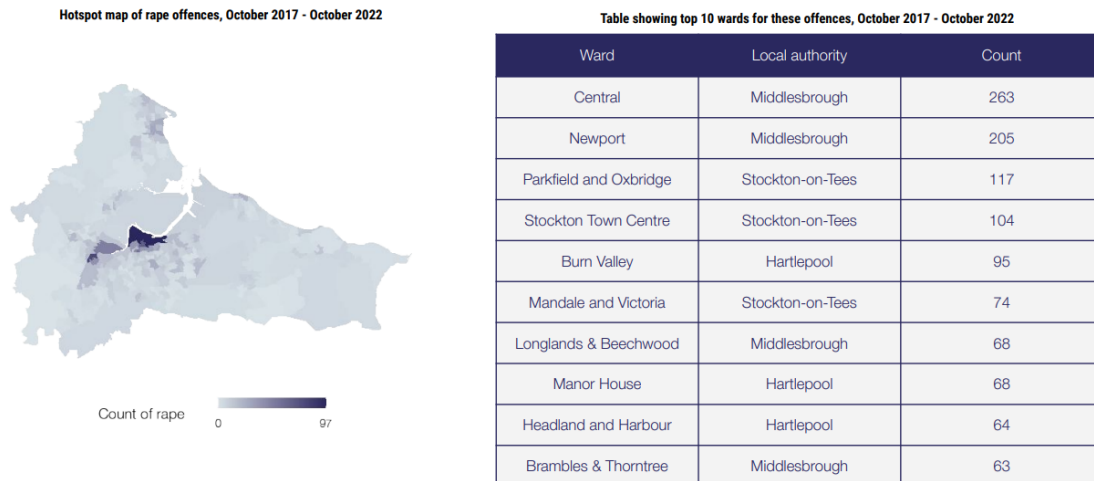
Sexual Offences

According to the CURV Strategic Needs Assessment, in the five years prior to October 2022, the wards with the highest number of rape offences were Middlesbrough Central, Newport and Parkfield and Oxbridge. Nearly one in five rapes occurred in Central and Newport wards in Middlesbrough. [8] According to the 'Understanding Serious Violence in Middlesbrough' report, 17.9% of all SV incidents had a domestic flag applied, and domestic incidents in Middlesbrough increased by a total of 34 incidents in FY21/22.

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[7] CURV Strategic Needs Assessment - Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner (pcc.police.uk)
[8] CURV Strategic Needs Assessment (pcc.police.uk)

Figure 4: Hotspot map of rape offences in Cleveland Force Area

Hotspot map of rape offences, October 2017 - October 2022

Table showing top 10 wards for these offences, October 2017 - October 2022

| Ward	Local authority	Count
Central	Middlesbrough	263
Newport	Middlesbrough	205
Parkfield and Oxbridge	Stockton-on-Tees	117
Stockton Town Centre	Stockton-on-Tees	104
Burn Valley	Hartlepool	95
Mandale and Victoria	Stockton-on-Tees	74
Longlands & Beechwood	Middlesbrough	68
Manor House	Hartlepool	68
Headland and Harbour	Hartlepool	64
Brambles & Thorntree	Middlesbrough	63

Count of rape 0   97

Source: CURV Strategic Needs Assessment

Furthermore, in 2022, violent and sexual offences were the most common crimes in Middlesbrough, with 12,906 offences during in 2022 subsequently resulting in a crime rate of 73. This showed a 10% increase in offences from 2021.[9]

The most recent data shows that in Redcar & Cleveland, incidences of reported sexual offences have steadily increased since 2020/21, with 562 total offences being recorded in 2022/23. This is a slight increase from the reported 478 in 2021/22. The same can be said for Middlesbrough, which had 585 total recorded sexual offences in 2020/21, and has seen increases each year since, at 654 in 2021/22 and 832 in 2022/23. The increases in sexual offences in Middlesbrough are much higher than in Redcar and Cleveland.

Figure 5: Number of reported sexual offences.
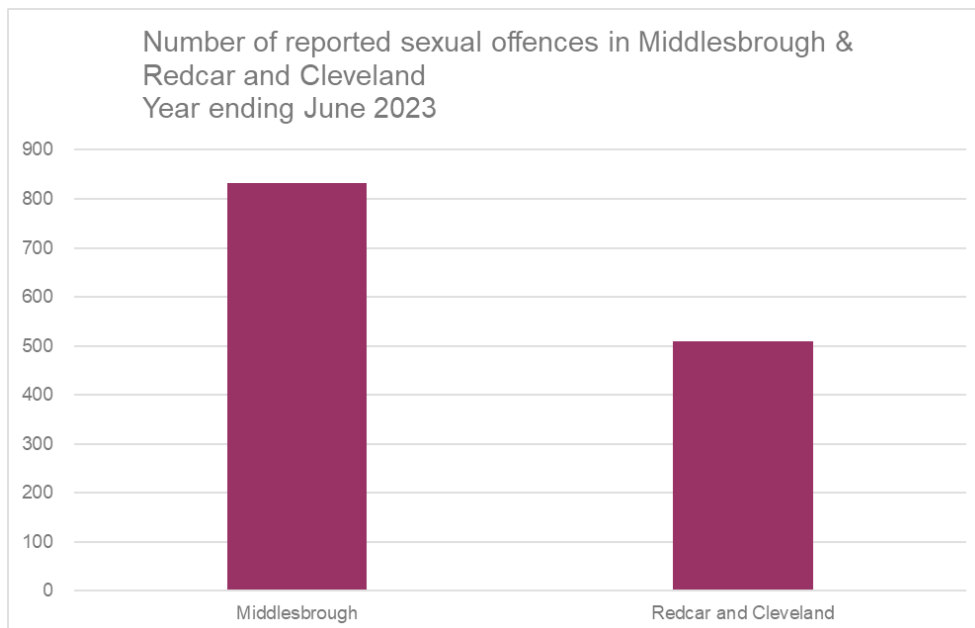
Source: Crime data by Community Safety Partnership area (ONS, 2024)

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[9] Middlesbrough Crime and Safety Statistics | CrimeRate

Domestic Abuse

Within the Cleveland-wide strategy; domestic violence was identified as the most significant driver behind serious violence, with levels accounting for one fifth (20%) of all serious violence. In Middlesbrough, domestic incidents increased by a total of 34 incidents in FY21/22. Between FY21/22 and 20/21, domestic related serious violence in Middlesbrough decreased in 7/20 wards, remained the same in 1 and increased in 12 wards.

Figure 6: Levels of Domestic Related Serious Violence in Middlesbrough wards per Financial Year

Ward	FY18/19	FY19/20	FY20/21	FY21/22	FY21/22 and 20/21
Acklam	<5	<5	<5	<5	-1
Ayresome	<5	<5	<5	<5	-4
Berwick Hills & Pallister	7	9	11	15	4
Brambles & Thorntree	<5	11	<5	14	9
Central	12	19	<5	14	10
Coulby Newham	<5	<5	<5	6	4
Hemlington	<5	<5	6	<5	-4
Kader	<5	<5	<5	<5	-1
Ladgate	<5	<5	<5	<5	-2
Linthorpe	<5	<5	<5	<5	2
Longlands & Beechwood	<5	8	6	6	0
Marton East	<5	<5	<5	<5	2
Marton West	<5	<5	<5	<5	-1
Newport	14	15	12	15	3
North Ormesby	8	10	10	11	1
Nunthorpe	<5	<5	<5	<5	1
Park	9	<5	<5	7	3
Park End & Beckfield	7	10	6	15	9
Stainton & Thornton	<5	<5	<5	<5	-2
Trimdon	<5	<5	<5	<5	1
Total		78	102	82	116

Source: Understanding Serious Violence in Middlesbrough (2023)

The CURV Strategic Needs Assessment also shows that "Middlesbrough Central has the lowest proportion of offences with a domestic abuse qualifier out of all Cleveland wards - this is similar to seven of the other top ten wards, suggesting that a greater proportion of offences in these wards are non-domestic related". [10]

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[10] CURV Strategic Needs Assessment (pcc.police.uk)

Figure 7: Proportion of serious violence offences with a domestic abuse qualifier (Top 10 wards)

Ward	Local authority	Count	Domestic abuse qualifier
Central	Middlesbrough	1,352	12%
Newport	Middlesbrough	1,038	15%
Parkfield and Oxbridge	Stockton-on-Tees	716	15%
Stockton Town Centre	Stockton-on-Tees	647	17%
Longlands & Beechwood	Middlesbrough	465	20%
Burn Valley	Hartlepool	455	20%
Mandale and Victoria	Stockton-on-Tees	415	22%
Headland and Harbour	Hartlepool	378	19%
Brambles & Thorntree	Middlesbrough	349	31%
Berwick Hills & Pallister	Middlesbrough	322	30%

1st quartile	2nd quartile	3rd quartile	4th quartile

Source: CURV Strategic Needs Assessment

For Redcar & Cleveland, most recent data shows that the number of reported domestic violence offences has been steadily increasing since 2019/20 (3,415), with number of offences reported in 2022/23 being 3,833.

<u>N.B:</u> *Many offences reported during the reporting period, occurred some time before it was reported, many of which were reported years after they occurred.*

	Number of reported domestic abuse incidents (Redcar & Cleveland only)
2022/23	3833
2021/22	3697
2020/21	3489
2019/20	3415

*Source: Incidents reported by the Police*

4.3 Victim/Offender Demographics

Victimisation by Gender

Males maintain a slightly higher risk of personal crime than females. According to CURV's Strategic Needs Assessment, in 2022 men made up 51% of serious violent offences victims. Whilst the differences in gender are small when looking at overall victimisation, when breaking this down by type of crime, more significant gender differences become clear. For example, in the 5 years prior to October 2022, 77% of victims of weapon-enables offences were male. However, 84% of victims of domestic abuse related offences were female. Furthermore, men were slightly more likely to be

victims of violence (56%), whilst women were significantly more likely to be victims of sexual offences (88%). [11]

Figure 8: Gender breakdown for victims of serious violence in Cleveland
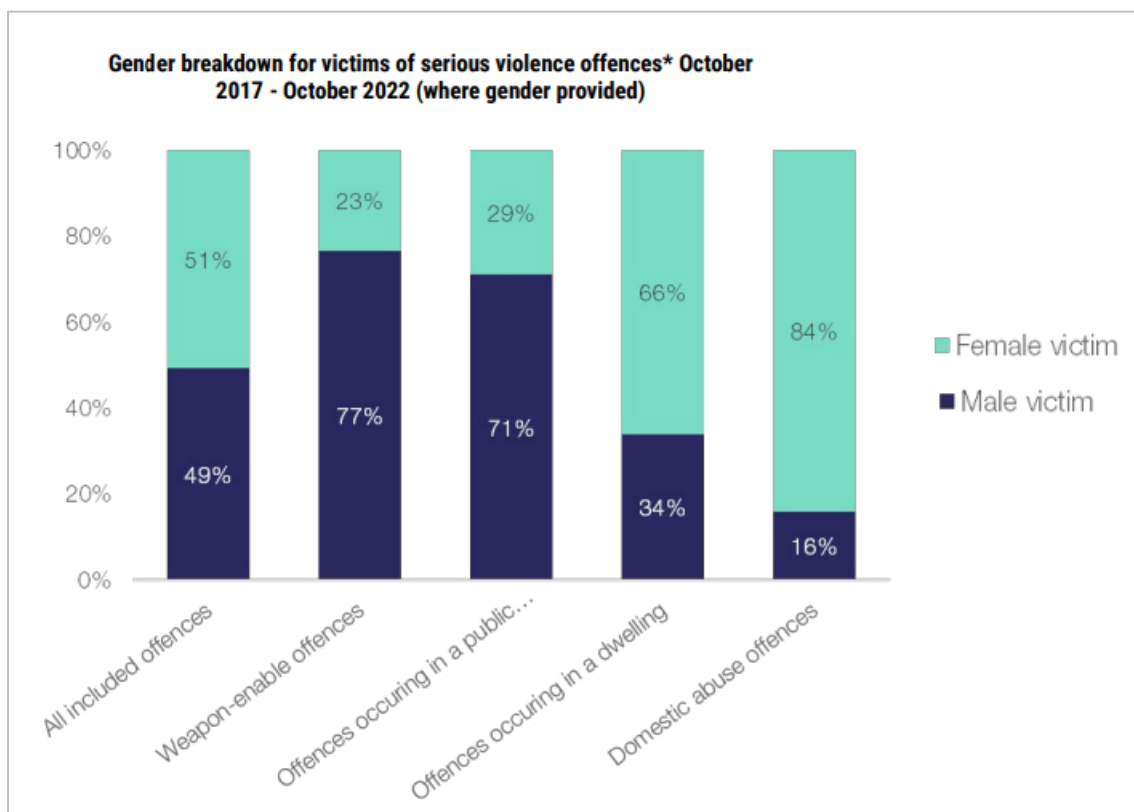
Source: CURV Strategic Needs Assessment

Earlier data also shows that, in Redcar & Cleveland, the local rate of hospitalisations for violent crime averaged at 47 per 100,000 of the population. Males, however, were significantly overrepresented in this, with the average for men being 75.1 hospitalisations per 100,000 of the population, and only 19.7 for women. Thus, males in Redcar & Cleveland were most likely to fall victim to violent crime.

Age

In South Tees, Youth Justice is more costly in Middlesbrough than in Redcar and Cleveland, with figures for 2023/24 indicating that Middlesbrough spends an average of £63.24 per head on this area of crime, with Redcar & Cleveland spending roughly an eighth of this (£7.24 per head).

According to Middlesbrough CSP's 'Understanding Serious Crime in Middlesbrough' report, the number of suspects ages 10 to 17, and the number of suspects aged over 18 have been steadily increasing since FY18/19. Suspects ages 10 to 17 saw the biggest increase, at 138%.

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[11] CURV Strategic Needs Assessment (pcc.police.uk)

Figure 9: Suspects of Serious Violent Crime by Age Group

Suspect Age	FY18-19	FY19-20	FY20-21	FY21-22
Under 10	<5	<5	<5	<5
10 to 17	18	21	23	43
Over 18	200	276	276	354
Total	**220**	**297**	**301**	**397**

Source: Understanding Serious Violence in Middlesbrough (2023)

When determining which crime types of suspects have been identified in being involved in, 64.7% of suspects in FY21-22 were suspects of violence with injury offences, followed by 14.3% being suspected of robbery, and 10.3% suspected of violence without injury. A full breakdown of suspects by age group per offence type can be seen below.

Figure 10: Suspects of Serious Violent Crime by Age group by Crime Type

Crime Type	Under 10	10 to 17	Over 18	Total VAR between FY21-22 and FY18-19
Violence with Injury	<5	30	227	113
Robbery	<5	<5	53	25
Violence without Injury	<5	<5	37	19
Burglary Residential	<5	<5	19	6
Arson	<5	<5	12	13
Homicide	<5	<5	<5	0
Burglary Business and Community	<5	<5	<5	1
Death or serious injury caused by illegal driving	<5	<5	<5	0
Total	**<5**	**43**	**354**	**177**

Source: Understanding Serious Violence in Middlesbrough (2023)

Offending by Gender

According to the CURV Strategic Needs Assessment, males made up the majority of suspects for serious crime, at 85% of suspects. The most significant gender difference when breaking data down by type of crime is within sexual offending, with males making up 94% of suspects. This is closely followed by weapon-enabled offences, with males making up 88% of suspects for this type of crime in the 5 years prior to October 2022. According to Middlesbrough CSP's 'Understanding Serious Crime in Middlesbrough' report, male suspects have historically accounted for the majority of serious violence suspects, at 83.6% at the end of FY21/22. The number of 'unknown' suspects is increasing at an alarming rate, having more than doubled since FY18-19.

Figure 11: Suspects of Serious Violent Crime by Gender

Suspect Gender	FY18-19	FY19-20	FY20-21	FY21-22
Male	171	252	245	336
Female	49	45	56	61
Unknown	121	182	147	248
Total	**341**	**479**	**448**	**645**

Source: Understanding Serious Violence in Middlesbrough (2023)

4.4 A & E Data

As of 2023, Cleveland (covering Redcar & Cleveland, Middlesbrough, Stockton & Hartlepool) has the 2nd highest rate of hospital admissions as a result of assault with a sharp object nationally, at 132 admissions per million of the population. Middlesbrough's rate exceeds that of Merseyside, which has the highest national rate. Locally, data from the period 2018/19 to 2020/21 shows that Middlesbrough has almost double the rate of hospital admissions for violence per 100,000 of the population (123.5) than the rate for all English unitary authorities (63.7). Redcar & Cleveland has a much higher rate, at 175, which is almost triple the mean for all English Unitary Authorities.

Figure 12: Hospital admissions for violence

Hospital admissions for violence per 100,000 of the population (2018/19-20/21)			
Local Authority	**Count**	**Mean for all local authorities in the Northeast**	**Mean for All English Unitary Authorities**
Redcar & Cleveland	175	60.0	63.7
Middlesbrough	123.5	60.0	63.7

Source: Fingertips, OHID

5   What are we doing already in relation to this goal?

5.1   Partnership Working

Since the introduction of the Serious Violence Duty in 2022, there has been a legal requirement for statutory partners such as the police, fire service, justice partners, health, and local authorities to work together collaboratively to prevent serious violence in their communities. In South Tees, it has been collectively agreed that the duty will be discharged through the Community Safety Partnership structure via the Cleveland Unit for Violence Reduction. In line with Government guidance surrounding Serious Violence Duty, there are a number of existing partnerships in the South Tees area that involve collaborative working with multiple professional bodies to address existing forms of violence, working with both victims, offenders, and those at risk of offending. The partnerships listed below work closely to plan, prevent, and reduce serious violence. Examples are included below.

Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV)

CURV is a multi-agency partnership established by the Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner to reduce serious violence. Through this partnership, organisations commit to following the evidence to create and deliver well-informed interventions to prevent serious crime and violence. This mandates collaborative working among partners and co-production with community and voluntary organisations, to ensure a diverse range of voices and lived experience are captured in priorities and interventions. At present, the CURV partnership includes professionals working in Youth Justice, Safeguarding, Community Safety, Health and Wellbeing, Police and Fire services, as well as local authority bodies, thus CURV includes specified authorities that are bound to the Serious Violence Duty. CURV addresses many of the requirements set out in The Duty through championing collaboration, coproduction, and the inclusion of community voices, as well as the creation of evidence-based interventions, all of which are mandated by Government guidance. As a result of the CURV Strategic Needs Assessment, published in 2022, a response strategy was developed which lays out a four-step approach to implementing change and fulfilling Serious Violence Duty:

1. Defining the problem
2. Identifying the causes of serious violence
3. Test and evaluate.
4. Continuous learning

Further details of the response strategy can be found here: CURV-Final-Doc.pdf (pcc.police.uk)

Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing, Trafficked (VEMT) Middlesbrough

VEMT supports young people through action planning to reduce their risk in Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation and County Lines. VEMT provides frontline staff with a Vulnerability Risk Assessment which must be completed, the score is then discussed at a multi-agency assessment meeting where the case will be accepted or rejected by VEMT. If the case is deemed inappropriate for the service, alternative interventions will be offered. VEMT also provides advice and guidance for practitioners.

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) South Tees

MAPPA is part of the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership, which is committed to "keeping children safe and working together to achieve the best possible outcomes for Children and Families" through reshaping the way in which local agencies work together to safeguard and promote the

welfare of children. MAPPA training is available for agency staff, based around reducing harmful behaviours of sexual and violent offenders, and protecting the public from serious harm.

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference or 'MARAC' is an information sharing and action planning meeting for victims of domestic abuse who are at risk of serious harm or death. The meeting is between representatives of local police, probation, health, child protection, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors. MARAC seeks to complement and not duplicate any other multi-agency forums and process.

South Tees Changing Futures Programme

The South Tees Changing Futures programme is a joint initiative by Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland Councils enabling all local organisations to work in partnership to better support those who experience multiple disadvantages. Changing Futures provides support to individuals over the age of 18 who experience two or more of the following issues:

- Domestic Abuse
- Homelessness
- Substance/Alcohol Misuse
- Mental Health Issues
- Repeated Contact with the CJS

Community Safety Partnerships

Community Safety Partnerships were introduced by Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and bring together local partners to formulate and deliver strategies to tackle crime and disorder in their communities. Responsible authorities that make up a Community Safety Partnership are the Police, Fire and Rescue Authority, Local Authorities, Health Partners, and Probation Services.[12] Locally, the following partnerships are active within their local communities:

- Safer Communities Middlesbrough
- Redcar & Cleveland Community Safety Partnership

Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership

The Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership (DASP) is responsible for making sure that the strategy on tackling domestic abuse is delivered. The partnership gathers direct input from survivors of domestic abuse. It makes sure that experiences both of abuse and of receiving services are considered when making improvements to the service for users. Membership of the DASP is formed from statutory and non-statutory services in Middlesbrough including Middlesbrough Council Adult's and Children's Services, Cleveland Police, Health, local domestic abuse charities, OPCC & others.

Alcohol and Crime Steering Group, Middlesbrough

Middlesbrough Council participated in the Local Alcohol Action Areas (LAAA) programme. This was a national programme set up by the Home Office as part of the Government's response to the Alcohol Strategy Consultation. Middlesbrough was selected as one of the 20 areas to receive support from the Home Office and Public Health England on tackling alcohol related harm. A multi-agency LAAA steering

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[12] Community Safety Partnerships - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

group was established and focussed on identifying priorities and developing local action plans to tackle the key alcohol issues across the town.[13]

High Risk Adults Panel (HRAP), Tees wide

The High Risk Adults Panel works in collaboration with a core group of multi-agency professionals and extended members to reduce/remove or manage the risk of the most vulnerable individuals in the area who are identified as being complex and at risk of harm.[14]

Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination Protocol (MATAC), Middlesbrough

MATAC is a multi-agency tasking and coordination protocol which ensures that agencies work in partnership to engage serial domestic abuse perpetrators in support, take enforcement action where required, and protect vulnerable and intimidated victims. [15]

5.2   Outreach

Various outreach projects also work throughout the South Tees area, aiming to engage individuals who are at risk of offending in a positive and meaningful way. For example:

Family Hubs

Family hubs are centres which enhance integrated working by enabling easier access and better outcomes for families, more effective service delivery and smarter use of budgets. Family hubs offer support and advice to families with children and young people below the age of 19, alongside running a variety of programmes, workshops and activities to increase knowledge, awareness and upskill families. They also run activities for children and young people and can provide support from external services such as health visitors and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) serfor those families who need it. Ultimately, family hubs provide a relaxing and informal environment through which young people and families can embed themselves into their community and build positive relationships.

Streetz Team/Youth & Community Centres

Steetz Team are part of the Government's Aiming High for Young People Initiative and run drop-in sessions and youth clubs over the weekend. This is aimed at providing positive activities for young people and creating an environment conducive to experiencing positive interaction to keep young people off the streets.

Inclusion Team

Outreach and Inclusion support is provided via a 0-25 Outreach and Inclusion Team. This team is split into areas of specialism covering Early Years and Primary, and Secondary and Post 16. The aim of the service is to support schools to identify SEND at the earliest point, contribute towards a graduated response to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND and offer additional resource to schools to coordinate efforts to increase inclusive capacity in the local area.

Young Persons Service for Substance Misuse

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[13] att1010928.pdf (middlesbrough.gov.uk)
[14] High Risk Adults Panel (HRAP) | Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (tsab.org.uk)
[15] MATAC | Middlesbrough Council

Myplace provides a number of services for young people aimed at supporting individuals to deal with complex issues. They provide learning and access to other learning and employment opportunities, to increase life-chances for young people. They also offer confidential advice, guidance, and support about issues such as substance misuse, mental health and guidance for young offenders.

Rough Sleepers Team

Middlesbrough Council has designated support for Rough Sleepers, they complete Rough Sleeper Sweeps a number of times per week giving support and advice to those who are found to be rough sleeping. There is also a Rough Sleeper Action Group who meets regularly to discuss current rough sleepers and formulate a plan on how to support them into accommodation. There is also Letitia House in Middlesbrough with New Walk CIC who take rough sleepers and support them to be able to maintain a tenancy. Letitia House accommodates verified rough sleepers for Middlesbrough Council and has 2 crash pads as emergency accommodation, referral only through Middlesbrough Council. Letitia House has an onsite Rough Sleep Navigator that works in direct partnership with Middlesbrough Council Rough Sleeper team.

Housing Solutions

The Housing Solutions team works to prevent homelessness as well as finding those who are already homeless suitable accommodation. Services can include giving advice, mediating issues with landlords, mortgage lenders or family, finding accommodation, helping to make homes safer for those experiencing violence or harassment, and offering temporary accommodation. [16]

StreetLink

StreetLink is a platform that connects people rough sleeping in England and Wales to support provided by local authorities and charities. This includes anyone who is sleeping outside, preparing to bed down, or sleeping somewhere not designed for habitation, such as a car. To make these connections, the platform relies on alerts submitted by members of the public and people sleeping rough.[17]

No Second Night Out

Middlesbrough council is committed to taking a 'no second night out' approach to tackling rough sleeping. This is a national initiative which aims to make sure that no one new to the street has to spend more than one night sleeping rough. [18]

Assertive Outreach Teams (AOT)

Assertive Outreach Teams work with individuals 18 or over who need intensive support due to complex mental health needs. They provide support and enable individuals to get treatment and care from other services, which can help them to manage their condition better and prevent hospital readmissions. [19]

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[16] Help with homelessness (Housing Solutions team) | Middlesbrough Council
[17] About Us - What is StreetLink? (thestreetlink.org.uk)
[18] No Second Night Out | Middlesbrough Council
[19] NHS Mental Health Teams (MHTs) (rethink.org)

5.3 Early Intervention

Turnaround Youth Justice Service

'Turnaround' is a government-funded early intervention scheme to catch troubled young people teetering on the edge of criminality. Through this scheme, local authorities are given funding to intervene early with teenagers displaying risk factors such as poor school attendance, troubles at home or a history of substance abuse.

South Tees Youth Justice Service (STYJS) works with 10–18-year-olds who have been sentenced by a court, or who have come to the attention of the police because of their offending behaviour. STYJS is a multi-agency partnership, with representatives from Cleveland Police, Middlesbrough Council, Redcar and Cleveland Council, and the National Probation Service. Staff are specifically trained to work with young people involved with, or at risk of becoming involved with, the criminal justice system.

School Attendance Project

Areas in South Tees are taking part in a Department for Education funded school attendance project, to combat low school attendance rates. As seen throughout this report, poor attendance at school can be a predictor of and a risk factor for future offending.

5.4 Locality Working (and THRIVE)

Areas across South Tees engage in Locality Working with members of the community, recognising that local people play important roles in driving social change in their areas. This means bringing local people into decision-making processes on services and interventions in their areas.

THRIVE Teesside:

Thrive Teesside is a grassroots organisation which advocates for the voice of lived experience to be included in decision-making processes, through research, bespoke one-to-one support and taking local action. Thrive has been extremely successful in getting the voice of people in poverty to those in power, allowing marginalised and vulnerable groups to participate in decision-making processes in their communities.

Accessing Change Together (ACT) Middlesbrough

Commissioned in April 2021 ACT Middlesbrough is an integrated partnership with internal council services and external commissioned services to support those in Middlesbrough with housing, substance use and domestic abuse issues. The services include, internally, Housing Solutions, Community Interventions & Recovery Connections. Externally they include, My Sisters Place, Home Group, Thirteen, Changing Lives, Harbour, North Star, Recovery Connections and Riverside. The services range from community-based support to accommodation-based services. ACT Middlesbrough aims to:
- Enable a person's story to grow with them to stop them having to tell their story more than once.
- Use a trauma informed approach in all services.
- Enable better information sharing between services.
- Understand that people have different needs, so the support offered depends on individual circumstances

Middlesbrough Survivor Engagement Service

Middlesbrough Council commissions a Survivor Engagement Service to ensure that the authentic voices of victims and survivors of domestic abuse are heard and used in decision making and service planning.

6 What are the key issues?

Taking a public health approach to violent crime means directly acknowledging and addressing the root causes and risk factors that increase the likelihood of perpetration among individuals. These risk factors can be present at different levels of an individual's life, namely: individual factors, relationships, community, and wider society. Individuals may have risk factors present in a singular area or may have many risk factors which intersect across different areas.

6.1 Individual

Vulnerability of Children & Young People

According to ONS (2023), in Teesside, Stockton-On-Tees had the highest number of looked after children, at 574. This was followed by Middlesbrough with 513 and Redcar & Cleveland with 399. [20] Furthermore, the CURV SNA showed that up to 2020, there were 2,009 children in care, with a rate of 17.2 per 1,000 of the population. The complexity and vulnerability associated with such individuals, particularly those under the age of 18, continues to increase. The average GCSE attainment (average attainment 8 score) in England and Wales sat at 46.3% of pupils in 2022/23. Three, of the four local authorities, that make up the Cleveland police force area were graded as 'significantly worse' than the national rate. Middlesbrough was the lowest at 40%, followed closely by Hartlepool at 41.2%, and then Redcar and Cleveland at 45.2%. [21]Persistent absenteeism from education is a particular problem for some communities within the Cleveland area. For example, in 2022/23 the average percentage of persistent absentees (10% or more sessions misses) in England was 21.2%. In the four local authorities that make up the Cleveland police force area, percentages were higher than nationally with Middlesbrough having the highest rate (25.4%), followed by Hartlepool (23.9%), Stockton-on-Tees (21.9%) and Redcar and Cleveland (21.6%).[22] Furthermore, all four local authorities had higher permanent exclusion rates in the Autumn term of 2022/23 than nationally. The national rate sat at 0.04, whilst Stockton-on-Tees had more than double with 0.09, Middlesbrough and Hartlepool both had rates of 0.07, and Redcar and Cleveland had 0.06. [23]Exclusion rates are intrinsically linked to young person's vulnerability and increased risk of being drawn into criminal exploitation and engagement in serious crime and organised crime.

Substance Misuse

There were 2,607 adults in treatment for drug misuse at year end of 2022/23 in South Tees as shown in Figure 1 below. This was made of up 1,767 adults in Middlesbrough or 68% and 840 adults or 32% in Redcar & Cleveland. Although numbers fluctuate, the number of clients in treatment for drugs at the end of 2022/23 was one of the higher numbers over the previous four years. There were 1,028 new adults in drug treatment at the end of 2022/23 in South Tees, the highest rate since early 2020/21.

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[20] Create your own tables, Table Tool – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK (explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

[21] Create your own tables, Table Tool – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK (explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

[22] Create your own tables, Table Tool – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK (explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

[23] Create your own tables, Table Tool – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK (explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

Figure 13: Adults in treatment for drug misuse in South Tees

Adults in treament for drug misuse in South Tees - Year to date
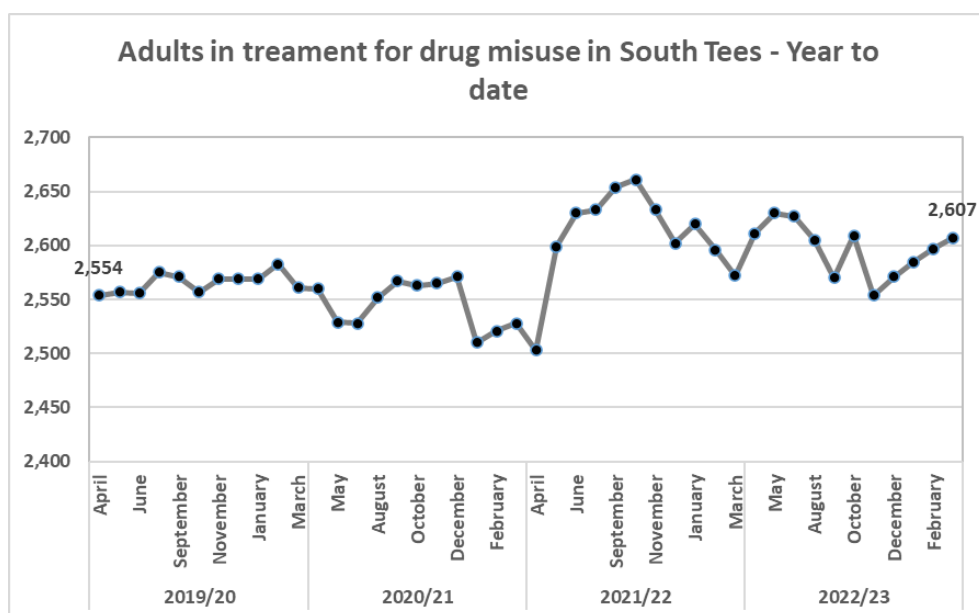
Source: NDTMS

Drug and alcohol misuse is perceived as a gateway offence and is intrinsically linked to serious violence. The UK Drug Policy Commission undertook research on the link between drug misuse and crime. It found that between a third and a half of new receptions to prison were estimated to be problem drug users. Further research estimates 1 in 8 arrestees (equating to roughly 125,000 people in England and Wales) are estimated to be problem heroin and/or crack users. [24]Alcohol is a prominent feature in many violent crimes. Victims of these crimes perceived offenders to be under the influence of alcohol in 53% of cases. [25]However, it should be noted that this data is outdated (2013/14) and more recent data is yet to be provided.

As of June 2022, the prevalence of drug use in the UK remained at around 18.6% among adults ages 16 to 24, and at 9.2% in adults aged 16 to 59 years. These figures were largely the same as the year ending March 2020, indicating ineffectiveness in decreasing substance misuse across the UK. [26]Drug and alcohol misuse is inherently linked to violence, with research finding that drug and alcohol abuse not only increase levels of perpetation of serious crime but can also increase the likelihood of victimisation. Academic research has noted that individuals with diagnosed drug use disorders have a 4-to-10-fold higher risk of perpetrating violence compared to general populations, across all categories of drug use disorders (Zhong, S., Yu, R. & Fazel, S., 2020). Thus, drug use is regarded as being associated with elevated risks of violence, making it imperative to reduce its prevalence in South Tees in order to contribute to our overall goal of reducing the prevalence and impact of violence in South Tees.

[24] Policy report - Reducing drug use, reducing reoffending (summary).pdf (ukdpc.org.uk)

[25] Violent Crime and Sexual Offences - Alcohol-Related Violence - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)
[26] Drug misuse in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)
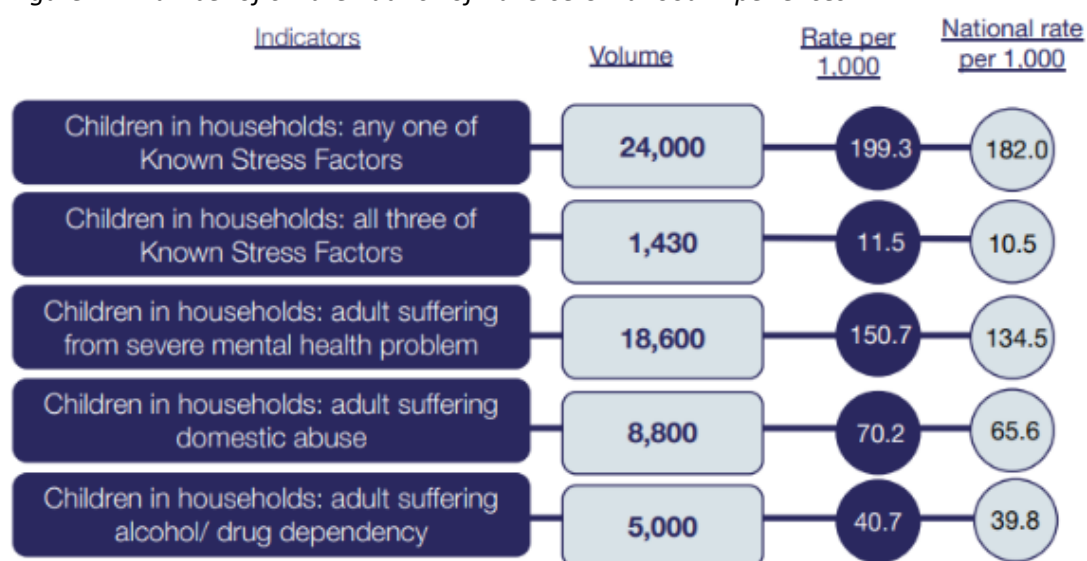
Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour, which is defined as "conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person, or nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's occupation of residential premises", is often treated as 'low-level' or 'sub-criminal' crime but has been recognised as having the potential to quickly escalate to more serious crime. In Redcar & Cleveland, crimes that could fall under the umbrella of 'anti-social behaviour' such as theft offences (29%), criminal damage (13%), public order offences (11%) and miscellaneous crimes against society (2%) made up a significant proportion of all reported crimes in the year ending June 2023. Similarly, in Middlesbrough, theft offences constituted 28% of all reported crimes, whilst criminal damage made up 14%. Furthermore, there was a general increase in ALL types of crime between June 2022 and June 2023. For ASB offences such as theft (19%), vehicle offences (39%), theft from person (25%) and shoplifting (23%), there were significant increases. In Middlesbrough, ASB offences such as theft saw increases of 34%, including a 64% increase in vehicle offences, an 83% increase in theft from the person and a 34% increase in shoplifting. Thus, this type of 'low-level' crime has a high prevalence in the South Tees area, therefore having the potential to progress to more serious, violent crime in the future. Working to address low-level offences before they progress will ultimately contribute to the goal of reducing violent crime in the future.

6.2 Relationship

Adverse Childhood Experiences

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are "highly stressful, and potentially traumatic, events or situations that occur during childhood and/or adolescence. They can be a single event, or prolonged threats to, and breaches of, the young person's safety, security, trust or bodily integrity." (Young Minds, 2018). This can include experiencing abuse, substance misuse, neglect, parental loss or mental health problems within the family. Academic research has shown that ACEs have an impact on the likelihood of both future violence perpetration and victimisation (Fox et al., 2014). Children in Cleveland experience high rates of adverse childhood experiences, increasing their risk of becoming victims or offenders of violent crime (CURV).

*Figure 14: Number of children at risk of Adverse Childhood Experiences*

Indicators	Volume	Rate per 1,000	National rate per 1,000
Children in households: any one of Known Stress Factors	24,000	199.3	182.0
Children in households: all three of Known Stress Factors	1,430	11.5	10.5
Children in households: adult suffering from severe mental health problem	18,600	150.7	134.5
Children in households: adult suffering domestic abuse	8,800	70.2	65.6
Children in households: adult suffering alcohol/ drug dependency	5,000	40.7	39.8

Source: CURV Strategic Needs Assessment

Parental substance abuse

Parental substance abuse in childhood is an example of an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) which has been identified as being a priority for South Tees. Figures show that for 'all those in treatment' in Redcar & Cleveland, 25% (304) of parents are living with their children and 31% (365) are not living with children, 44% (525) are not parents. When compared to data for the whole of England, which shows that 24% of parents are living with their children and 30% are not living with children, it becomes clear that children in Redcar & Cleveland are overrepresented among those living with parents who have substance misuse problems and are therefore more likely to be exposed to this form of ACE.

Figure 15: Number of Substance Misusing Parents
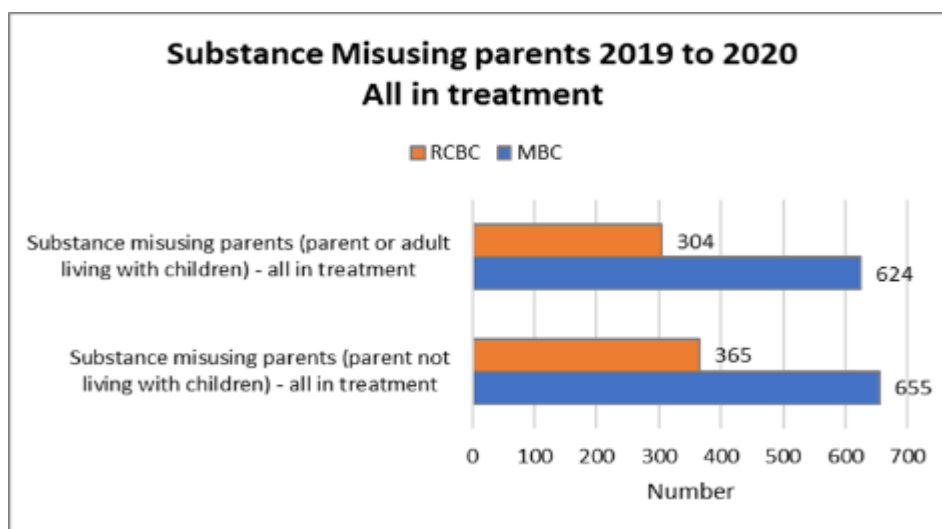
Source: NDTMS

Normalisation of Violence

According to CURV SNA, one fifth of children and young people surveyed in Cleveland in November 2022 have seen someone they know be physically violent, while two fifths have seen fights involving young people online. This suggests a wider trend of desensitisation of violence for young people, due to normalisation among their peers and on social media platforms. This normalisation increases the likelihood of young people viewing violence as socially acceptable, and therefore engaging in violent crimes throughout their adolescence and into adulthood. However, it should be noted that this data is based on a small number of surveyed individuals, which was heavily skewed towards Stockton students.

Figure 16: Proportion of CYP who chose to respond that had seen someone they know commit a serious violence or related offence, by crime type and relationship.
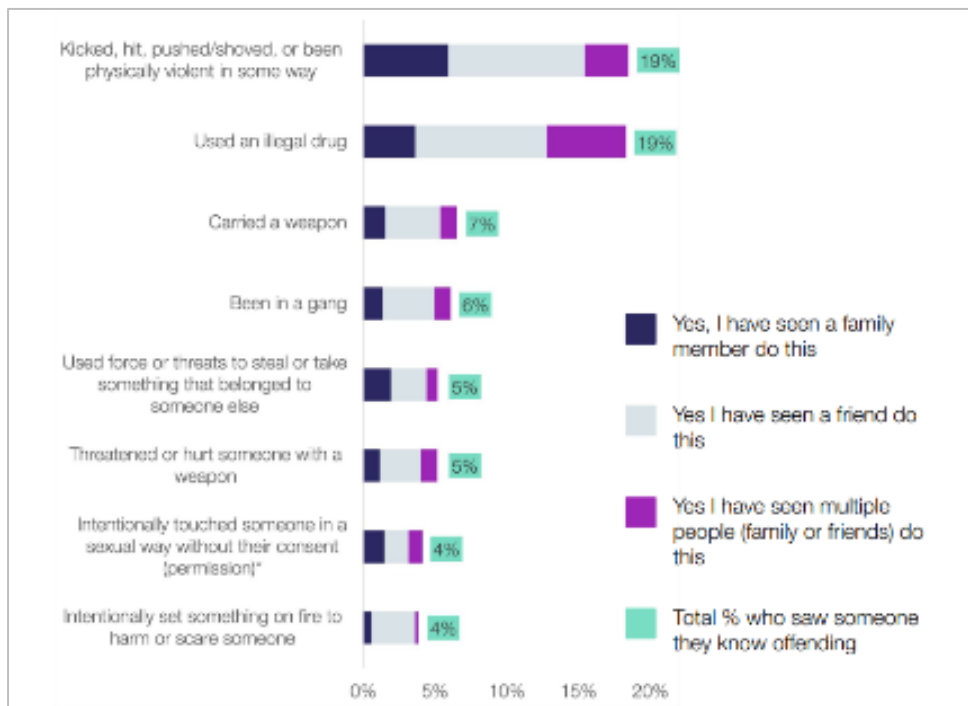
Source: CURV SNA

Figure 17: Proportion of CYP who chose to respond that had seen different types of violence or related activities on social media.
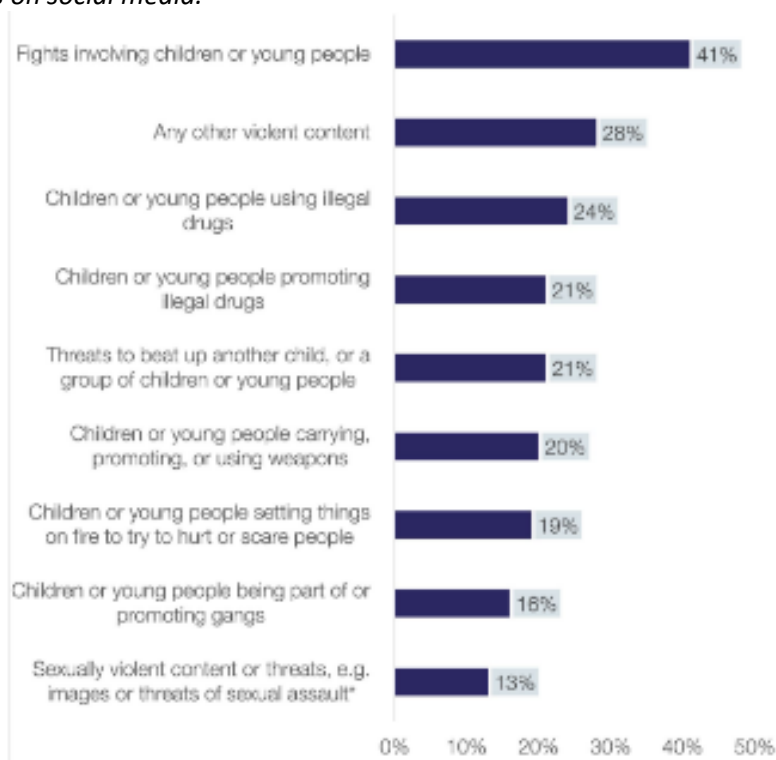
Source: CURV Strategic Needs Assessment

Domestic Violence

Domestic abuse has far-reaching repercussions for all of society. It has devastating effects on families, children as well as local communities. In 2021, Parliament passed the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, which defined it as behaviour consisting of; physical or sexual abuse, violent or threatening behaviour, controlling or coercive behaviour, economic abuse, or psychological, emotional or other abuse. Domestic violence is especially conducive to crime where children experience this in their childhood or adolescence, as this can be particularly traumatic and form an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE). In Redcar & Cleveland, 4% of children's social care assessments included domestic abuse as a factor,[27] highlighting a significant proportion of children living in households affected by violence and abuse. This in turn increases their risk of committing violent crimes in their adolescence or adulthood.

There is a high prevalence of domestic abuse in Redcar & Cleveland, with 3,888 domestic abuse crimes and incidents being reported to the police during Jan to Dec 2021, which equates to a rate of 28.3 per 1000 of the population. Figures from the Redcar and Cleveland Adults JSNA show that many domestic violence perpetrators are repeat offenders, with 44 offenders having repeated an incident or crime pertaining to domestic abuse, whilst 14 were serial offenders, abusing more than one victim. Tragically, between 2019 and 2022, there were two deaths due to domestic violence in Redcar & Cleveland, highlighting the severity of the crime. The wards with the highest number of domestic abuse crimes during 2020/21 were Grangetown, Eston, Coatham and South Bank. Finally, sexual offences in Redcar & Cleveland increased by 31% from the year 2019/20 to 2020/21. The majority (80%) of victims of these crimes were female. [28]

6.3 Community

Lack of neighbourhood facilities

South Tees has high levels of deprivation, which stems from an ongoing lack of investment in the area and can lead to a lack of facilities for young people. This lack of neighbourhood facilities can act as a barrier, preventing young people from participating in positive activities. In turn, this can inhibit individual's ability to form meaningful connections both with others' and with their communities. Ultimately, this can lead to a loss of pride in place and breakdown in community bonds, leading to increased individualism categorised by a 'me' over 'we' culture, which can be conducive to serious crime.

Organised Crime and County Lines

Organised crime activity and associated violence between rival members is intrinsically linked to the supply and distribution of illegal drugs. Local analysis of 2019/20 crime data indicates 4% of serious violence was linked to Organised Crime Group activity.

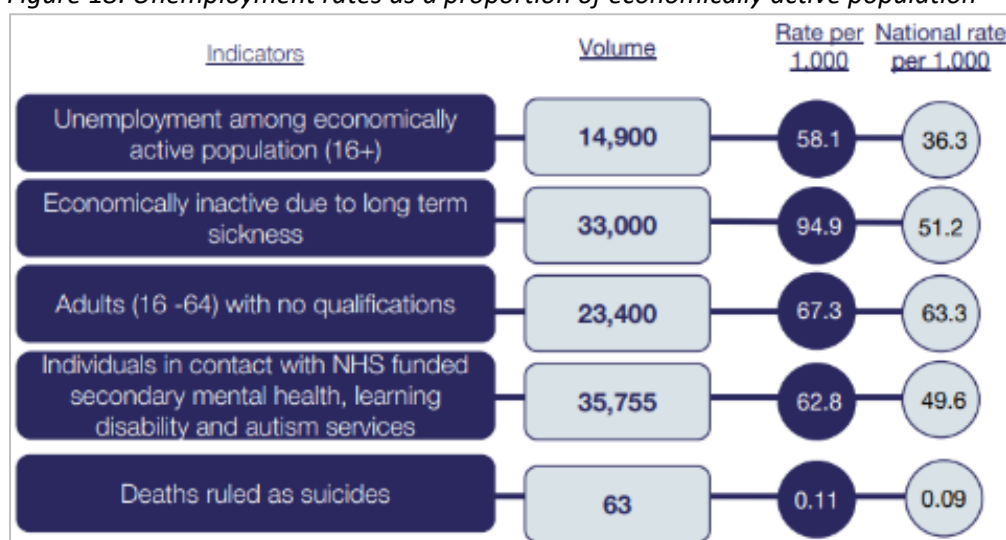[27] Domestic Abuse JSNA.pdf (redcar-cleveland.gov.uk)
[28] Domestic Abuse JSNA.pdf (redcar-cleveland.gov.uk)

6.4 Society

Deprivation

Research has found there are multiple factors which can increase the risk of offending in young people. For example, those from lower income households, those living with parents who are not in employment and those with a lack of qualifications are most at risk of offending. According to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019, in terms of income, Middlesbrough is the most income deprived place to live, with 25% households living in income deprivation and 33% of children living in income deprived households. As of July 2023, the national rate of unemployment (based on the economically activity population) was reported as 4.3%. With low levels of academic achievement and a high proportion of people with no qualifications, unemployment levels are comparatively high in all areas of Cleveland. The most recent ONS unemployment data, based on the 2021 census, indicates that Middlesbrough and Hartlepool have the second and third highest rates of unemployment in England and Wales with rates of 7.6%, and 7.5% respectively. The Cleveland area has a comparatively high number of workless households. Middlesbrough has the third highest rate in the UK at 27.3%, with Hartlepool being the fourth highest at 26.4%. The rates for these two areas are more than double the UK average of 10.5%. Cleveland has higher than average rates of unemployment, long term sickness, lack of qualifications and mental health concerns, creating a context of higher vulnerability to offending and victimisation within the community.

Figure 18: Unemployment rates as a proportion of economically active population

Indicators	Volume	Rate per 1,000	National rate per 1,000
Unemployment among economically active population (16+)	14,900	58.1	36.3
Economically inactive due to long term sickness	33,000	94.9	51.2
Adults (16 -64) with no qualifications	23,400	67.3	63.3
Individuals in contact with NHS funded secondary mental health, learning disability and autism services	35,755	62.8	49.6
Deaths ruled as suicides	63	0.11	0.09

Source: CURV Strategic Needs Assessment

At community level, there is a significant level of deprivation in Cleveland. Both Hartlepool and Middlesbrough rank within the top 10 most deprived local authority areas in England, making these areas highly vulnerable to increased crime rates.

Figure 19: Map showing levels of Multiple Deprivation in Cleveland, where darker areas indicate higher levels of deprivation.
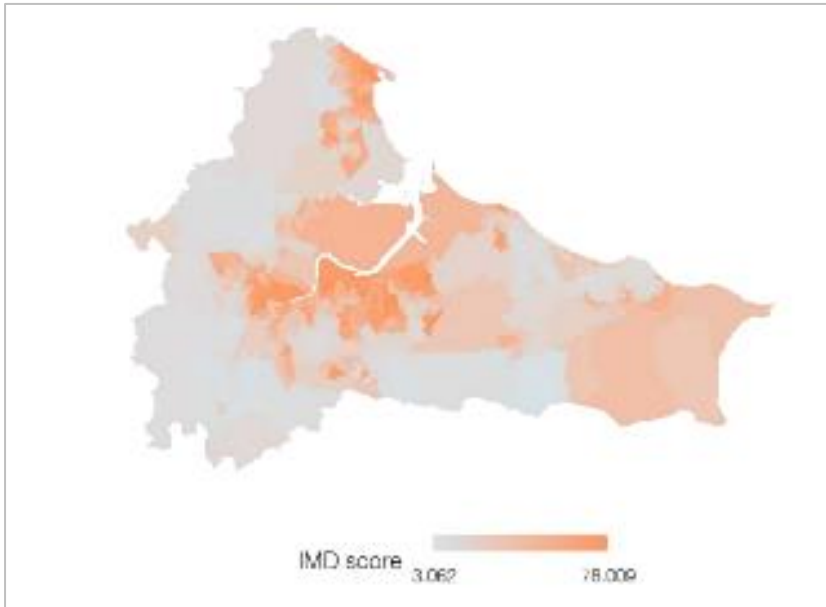
Source: CURV Strategic Needs Assessment

Furthermore, Middlesbrough ranks as the most deprived local authority in England in terms of income deprivation.

Figure 20: Percentage of people on, or claiming UC credit in England and Cleveland
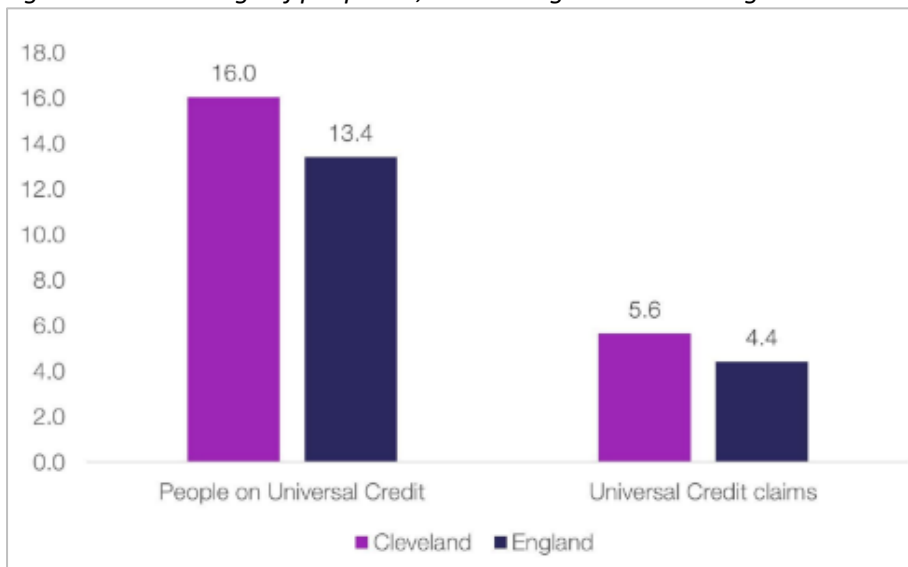
Source: CURV Strategic Needs Assessment

7 What is the current evidence base?

7.1 Effective Prevention and Intervention

Youth Endowment Fund
In South Tees, interventions are tied to assessments made by the Youth Endowment Fund, an authoritative structure on violence reduction which is funded by the Home Office. The Youth Endowment Fund produces a Toolkit, highlighting 'what works' in reducing violent crime. The measures assessed as having a 'high' impact on violence are as follows:

Cognitive Behavioural Therapy
Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, or CBT, is a type of talking therapy which helps people recognise and manage negative thoughts and behaviours. The Youth Endowment Fund rated it's estimated impact on crime as 'high', it's cost as 3/3 and the evidence quality of these findings as 3/5. Research by organisation such as the Youth Endowment Fund have found that "CBT is effective in both reducing crime overall and behaviours associated with crime and violence. The research suggests that, on average, CBT has reduced crime by 27% and reduced the prevalence of behavioural difficulties" (Youth Endowment Fund, 2023). This is echoed by the College of Policing, which state that a meta-analysis of 58 studies concluded that there was a statistically significant reduction in reoffending of 25% among participants who received CBT compared to those who did not. Specifically, there was a 28% reduction in violent offending among those who underwent CBT. Cognitive behavioural therapy has been found to be more effective than other cognitive or support-based approaches in reducing re-offending, with the College of Policing (2023) also rating this as 'strong'.

Focused Deterrence
This is a strategy that combines communicating the consequences of violence with support for developing positive routes away from it. The Youth Endowment Fund rated it's estimated impact on crime as high.

Social Skills Training
Social skills training aims to develop children's ability to regulate their behaviour and communicate effectively. The Youth Endowment Fund rated it's estimated impact on crime as high.

Sports Programmes
Sports-based interventions can be either secondary or tertiary and focus on engaging children in organised sport or physical activity as a way of diverting them from activities through which they may become involved in offending. The Youth Endowment Fund rated it's estimated impact on crime as 'high', and the evidence quality of these findings as 2/5. Due to the wide variety of possible programmes and providers, it is difficult to 'score' the quality of this type of intervention as a whole.

Trauma-specific Therapies
This refers to specialist therapies which look at individuals' specific life experiences and trauma, with the objective of helping them to understand and recover from this trauma. The Youth Endowment Fund rated it's estimated impact on crime as high.

A&E Navigators
These interventions deploy an array of professionals throughout the healthcare system who are experienced in supporting vulnerable individuals across a range of contexts, in order to provide case-worker support to victims of violent crime. The Youth Endowment Fund rated it's estimated impact on crime as 'high', it's cost as 2/3 and the evidence quality of these findings as 1/5. In contrast, the

College of Policing has classified both accident and emergency navigators and health visitors as only having 'moderate' impacts on violence reduction. The rationale behind these interventions' rests upon findings that those who are victims of violent crimes can often become offenders later in their lives, with research finding that victimization and offending are inherently linked, and that there are "probably causal chains running from one to another in both directions" (Smith, D. 2004). It has been noted that multiple studies investigating the impact of A&E navigator programmes reported "statistically significant reductions" in both violent revictimization and arrest and imprisonment rates for violent crime after receiving support from a navigator in A&E (College of Policing, 2023). However, this data has not been collated into a meta-analysis and therefore there is minimal data that can demonstrate an overall impact, thus leading to it being considered as having a 'moderate' impact.

Source: Youth Endowment Fund Toolkit

7.2   The College of Policing

Furthermore, The College of Policing have formulated a 'crime reduction toolkit', detailing multiple interventions across all areas of crime and how effective each of these have been. Below is a brief discussion of which interventions are considered to be most and least effective.

7.3   Custodial Sentencing and Policing

Custodial interventions related to violent crime, sexual violence and domestic violence have included: criminal sanctions to prevent domestic violence and firearm laws, however both have been retrospectively assessed and determined as having 'low' impact on the prevalence and reduction of violent crime. There was, however, one intervention in this area reported as being 'very strong', which was the electronic tagging of sex offenders. Adaptations to policing have been found to be more effective than custodial sentencing, with interventions such as problem-oriented policing, body-worn cameras and hot spots policing all having a 'very strong' impact on violence reduction. These findings are further consolidated through research conducted by other local authority violence reduction units. For example, MOPAC found that "offenders who have served short prison sentences are more likely to reoffend than those given community or suspended sentences", thus highlighting the favourability of alternative interventions to 'traditional criminal justice system' or custodial approaches.

In relation to changes in policing as a means to address violent crime, academic meta-analyses have found that problem-oriented policing has positive, statistically significant impacts. Specifically, compared to control areas, communities in which problem-oriented policing were implemented saw an average of 33.8% reduction in crime and disorder. This therefore supports the ideology that proactive policing strategies involving bespoke, evidence-informed strategies are more effective than traditional, reactive methods of policing. There was no displacement of crime identified during these studies, indicating that problem-oriented policing is less likely to cause crime to diffuse into other areas than traditional policing. (Hinkle, J.C., Weisburd, D., Telep, C.W. & Petersen, K., 2020). Similarly, 'hot spots policing' has a particularly strong evidence base, with the National Research Council (2004) stating that "studies that focused police resources on crime hot spots provided the strongest collective evidence of police effectiveness that is now available". Furthermore, academic meta-analyses have found significant positive effects of hot spot policing, suggesting that the approach can be beneficial in providing place-based solutions to crime reduction (Braga et al., 2012). However, the current evidence-based around the effects of police being equipped with body cameras is mixed. For example, multiple academic studies have highlighted the specificity the uses of this particular intervention.

Taylor & Lee (2019) found that body-worn cameras are only effective in preventing violence against police, however, do not provide intra-community violence. They determined that body-worn cameras produced a civilizing effect and de-escalated interactions between police and offenders, but arrestees did not feel that they were effective in reducing violent crime overall (Taylor & Lee, 2019).

7.4   Community-Level Interventions

The aforementioned crime reduction toolkit sets out multiple interventions at the community-level, the majority of which have been assessed to have 'very strong' impacts on violence reduction. For example, early educational interventions aimed at addressing and preventing relationship violence have been found to be highly effective. The highly rated effectiveness of this particular intervention is unsurprising when looked at against the backdrop of academic research into the topic, as many studies have found educational interventions to be exemplary in preventing abuse. For example, European Union funded project 'REaDAPt' found that educational interventions are able to change attitudes towards domestic violence in a short period of time, causing notable improvements in attitudes towards violence within relationships (Gadd, D., 2013). Furthermore, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (2017) has determined that education around healthy relationships, potential signs of abuse and available support services can empower victims to leave abusive relationships before violence is experienced. Thus, the importance of education in positively influencing the attitudes of both those at risk of offending and those at risk of victimisation should be noted when considering interventions towards partner-perpetrated violent crime.

Other community-level approaches have involved improving the community landscape, for example through introducing improved street lighting. Improved street lighting is theorised to work by increasing surveillance and acting as a method of situational prevention to deter offenders. Furthermore, improved street lighting signifies investment in the neighbourhood, increasing pride in place and motivating residents to take actions that subsequently reduce crime within their neighbourhoods (The College of Policing, 2023). The College of Policing notes that street-lighting has 'very strong' impacts on reducing violent crime, with a myriad of academic research supporting this finding. For example, five U.K. based evaluation studies demonstrated that improved lighting led to a decrease in crime, as well as highlighting that "the financial savings from reduced crimes greatly exceed the financial costs of the improved street lighting" (Welsh, B.C & Farrington, D.P., 2008; Painter, 2001). Furthermore, statistics show a marked decrease in violent crime in areas with improved street lighting, with the College of Policing noting a 21% decrease in both violent and property crime in areas with improved street lighting.

Source: Crime reduction toolkit | College of Policing

8 What do local people say?

8.1 Young People

When collecting the views of local young people, a number of key themes arose. These themes often reflect findings around psychosocial risk factors for violence, such as those discussed in this report. The first point raised by young people is the widespread nature of violence. Young people and their caseworkers noted that violence is not contained to specific groups, and that there is often a lack of clear rationale behind violent attacks. The second theme that arose is the role that social media plays in normalising and encouraging violence, through glamorising a 'violent' lifestyle. Young people noted that the culture around violence has led to competition, which encourages individuals to commit violent acts to gain respect or popularity. The final theme that was recurrent in case studies was the prevalence of drug use and drug dealing, which young people say has a significant role to play in causing violence. Some direct quotations around these themes can be seen below:

"I didn't realise the severity of the impact of violence in the community until I saw it with my own eyes. You hear about it from young people, yes, I am aware anti-social behaviour is in the communities but when you see it … kids don't even take notice of the workers with the young person, they still went to hit him."

"People get kidnapped and that. Girls have been raped there. They're being tortured and that - people have been stabbed there. It's just no good there."

"They'll do anything for drugs. If they're addicted, they'll do anything for drugs"

"People message each other randomly, "what's your problem?", for no reason, [they] just want to fight you and that. You'll just get added into a group chat and they'll know your name, and it will get spread all over and then it will just become something big. Social media is very powerful, you know. Very, very powerful."

"Music is least important. On rap music, that is just like acting and that. When they have motorbikes and Rambos [slang for a large combat-style knife) and that."

"They just fight you. When you go somewhere, and you go and try and play somewhere they just starting with you"

"Get the government involved and make drugs not a thing"

"Everyone's going to get bullied one day … everyone wants to be the main person, that's what makes bullies. There's a lot of bullying in schools. A lot."

Young People's Perceptions of Violence in Cleveland

A local survey of more than 350 young people in 2019 on the subject of serious violence found that carrying knives and witnessing incidents of violence is commonplace across the communities in Cleveland with:

- Almost 6 in 10 young people stating that they thought that violence was a problem in their local area.
- More than half (56%) stating violence was getting worse in their local area.
- Over one third witnessing someone carrying a weapon with knives accounting being cited the most.

8.2   Victims

Victims often gave powerful and insightful accounts of the impact of violence on both their lives and the lives of their loved ones. However, in addition to this, a number of themes arose that could provide helpful recommendations to service providers who aim to give support to victims of violence. For example, a number of victims interviewed expressed feeling let down by emergency services, such as the police, the hospital and counselling services. Furthermore, victims highlighted the usefulness of restorative justice in allowing them to gain closure and answers to questions they had around their attack. Finally, victims noted feeling that the most deprived areas had a greater prevalence of violence, highlighting the importance of considering social determinants and taking a place-based approach when addressing the root causes of violence. Relevant quotes are set out below:

"I'll never forget his eyes, I'll never forget the feeling … is this a dream? Is this a nightmare? What's going on? … I thought they were going to kill me."

"I'm so infuriated by the system where a victim can't play a part in saying what that offender does as part of his offending behaviour planning."

"I do think there needs to be some sort of education in terms of the police, so people are aware like actually this is a crime."

"It's all down to a lack of communication from the police (…) I had to pull off in the high street, just on the cobbles, and just chill out because I was shaking. (…)"

"It was only very short; I think it was like three sessions. And you know, when you've got postnatal depression, three sessions are not going to fix it."

"God, there's loads. It's because it's Middlesbrough - there was a lot of crime going on. It has become the norm.

8.3   Offenders

Offenders also gave insightful perspectives when asked about their motivations behind and reasons for offending. These interviews placed significant importance on the aforementioned drivers behind violent crime and predictors of violent crime. For example, offenders referenced Adverse Childhood Experiences they had faced, early risk factors such as poor school behaviour, a lack of neighbourhood facilities leading to environments conducive to crime, low self-esteem and drug use. They also placed importance on the cultural values and changes mentioned by young people, such as the increasing prevalence of violence on social media and the subsequent normalisation of violence. The ways in which this echoes the concerns of young people should be noted, as offenders placing particular importance on the same factors highlights the potential of these things to cause violence. Relevant quotes are set out below:

"I was using cannabis in the morning just to sort of take the edge off going into college"

"The bullying went on until I was about 14, that's when I started fighting back, literally fighting back."

"I've always had this deep-rooted resentment for myself because of the bullying but then I started thinking, you know what, people are praising me because of all of this, so it started making me want to try harder. And that's why I ended up starting to do gigs."

"Looking back, that was neglect… I began to be isolated and I'd suffer depression when I was about 7 or 8."

"[Seeing violence at an early age] normalised it, so I just let it carry on and then sooner or later I just started joining in myself… I used to fight with anyone"

"There is a lot of stuff being posted that kids shouldn't be seeing… I remember when I was 14 a porn advert popped up on Facebook. If you are a 14-year-old you are going to open it, aren't you."

9 What are the recommendations?

The recommendations presented in this section have been created based on the data presented throughout this report. Findings have been synthesized to establish key concerns and the below recommendations have drawn upon these, as well as relevant recommendations made in other strategic needs assessments.

Recommendation 1: The Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV) currently provides a multi-agency partnership through which organisations work collaboratively to address serious violence. Through this partnership, CURV supports training and education around violence reduction for professionals working in Children and Adult Services, Safeguarding, Education and Health. The scope of this work should extend, with the support of Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council as key signatories of the partnership, to delivering workshops, learning sessions and other informative activities to educate children and young people on the consequences of violence. This could involve aiming to address specific forms of crime, for example informing young people on the legal, physical and emotional impacts of knife crime, the 'warning signs' and legal consequences of county lines activity, and teaching young children about 'healthy' relationships to address domestic abuse.

Recommendation 2: Further research and analysis should be undertaken to identify reasons for negative school engagement such as high exclusion rates and low educational attainment among individuals. Positive educational engagement is a protective factor for violence, and gaining a comprehensive understanding of root causes will allow relevant partners to establish meaningful interventions.

Recommendation 3: Professionals working in Children and Adult Services, Safeguarding, Education and Health should be given specialist training by local authority teams, specialist organisations and/or violence reduction units to inform them of the psychosocial risk factors for violent crime. Once training is delivered, there should be a collaborative approach between local partners to allow at-risk individuals to be identified (for example through professional referral routes) and increase the chances of engaging them in initiatives aimed at early intervention. At present, CURV supports the delivery of training for professionals on how to identify those at risk of violent crime and on interventions and measures to prevent crime, in line with Government guidance on Serious Violence Duty, which stipulates that authorities should consult educational authorities when planning to reduce violence. However, there should be an ongoing commitment among Redcar and Cleveland Council to work in close collaboration with CURV to support further development of this training, as well as to drive the establishment of clear referral routes for early interventions.

Recommendation 4: Ongoing investment into services offering support or working to positively impact psychosocial risk factors is essential. For example, there should be a focus on commissioning service that aim to address mental health, substance misuse, neurodiversity, domestic abuse, safeguarding and family support.

Recommendation 5: There should be a focus on ongoing monitoring and evaluation of all early intervention and educational activities to ensure approaches are effective and are inclusive for all at risk groups. This will assist in ensuring approaches are sustainable and will allow for ongoing positive impacts. Lessons learned should be taken and evidence-based changes to existing interventions implemented.

Recommendation 6: Guidance and training for parents and carers of young people should be delivered by relevant organisations and local authority partners, to raise awareness of all forms of online abuse

and enable them to better protect the children and young people in their care. Training should also be delivered to professionals such as teachers and those working in other educational settings, to allow them to monitor and intervene when necessary. Finally, such informative sessions should be delivered to children and young people themselves, to educate them on the dangers of social media, warning signs to look out for and what to do if they become victims of online abuse.

Recommendation 7: There should be an increase in investment in neighbourhood facilities such as youth clubs and community centres which will provide young people with comfortable spaces to form meaningful connections, whilst keeping them off the street. These facilities should work closely with their local police force and/or violence reduction units to deliver activities and sessions to young people to educate them on violent crime, with the aim of prevention. Sessions should be co-produced with young people in attendance, to ensure they are engaging and effective, increasing sustainability.

Recommendation 8: There should be a continued commitment to collaborative commissioning through working closely and collaboratively with the Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV), which provides an existing partnership to establish knowledge sharing procedures and decide on joint priorities for tackling serous crime in the area. The partnership currently includes youth justice organisations, health and wellbeing professionals, police bodies, fire services and safeguarding bodies, as well as local authority members**.** Collaboration with CURV should include, identifying existing system issues and working collaboratively to address these using a multi-agency approach, as well as collectively deciding on priorities and deliverables relating to early years and family interventions, sexual violence and re-offending, as well as other psychosocial risk factors for violence.

Recommendation 9: In line with Serious Violence Duty guidance, local authorities should ensure that a diverse range of perspectives are considered and integrated into responses. This should not only include the voices of professionals, but should include community stakeholders, such as local third sector and voluntary organisations. This is currently facilitated by CURV, who are committed to co-production and collaboration with grassroots organisations. However, there should be a commitment to ensure that the voices of those with lived experience are included and considered within all internal procedures throughout the council. Specifically, advisory groups made up of community actors would be beneficial, championing the voices of children and young people where appropriate. Data collected from community forums and advisory groups should be clearly integrated into all approaches and individuals should have a direct role in forming methodologies for initiatives, schemes and interventions made to support groups that they are a part of.

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